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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/670,377	09/26/2003	Makoto Haseyama	990675B	6906
38834	7590	03/08/2006	EXAMINER	
WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP			CHAN, EMILY Y	
1250 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, NW			ART UNIT	
SUITE 700			PAPER NUMBER	
WASHINGTON, DC 20036			2829	

DATE MAILED: 03/08/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/670,377	Applicant(s) HASEYAMA ET AL.	
	Examiner Emily Y. Chan	Art Unit 2829	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
 - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 January 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 9-26-03 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>10/17/05</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Upon reviewing the applicant's Appeal Brief filed on 1/17/06, the examiner withdraws the finality of the rejection of the last Office action dated on 6/15/05. A new rejection ground follows.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakata et al US Patent No. 5,665,610 in view of Gleason et al US Patent No. 5,914,613.

Nakata et al (610) (see Figs 3a-3b) expressly disclose a method for checking a semiconductor device, comprising the step of:

electrically connecting electrode pads (bump 15) of a device testing contactor (14) to electrodes (check electrode 11) of a device being tested (semiconductor chip 10);

the electrode pads (bump 15) being formed on a membrane-type flexible wiring board (conductive rubber sheet 25) of the device testing contactor (14), and being reinforced by a reinforcing member (wiring board 26).

Nakata et al (610) fail to disclose that their wiring board (25) and the reinforcing member (26) collectively molded and bonded to each other.

Gleason et al (613) disclose a membrane probing assembly (see Figs. 7a-7b) comprising electrode pads (88), a membrane-type flexible wiring board (flexible membrane assembly 72) and a reinforcing member (70,98). Gleason et al (613) exclusively teach that their a membrane-type flexible wiring board (flexible membrane assembly 72) and a reinforcing member (70,98) are collectively molded and bonded to each other (see Col. 7, last line and Col. 8, lines 1-2 " The membrane assembly is interconnected to the flat support surface 70 by an interposed elastomeric layer 98).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the claimed invention was made to incorporate the teaching of Gleason et al (613) into Nakata et al (610)'s method so that Nakata et al (610)'s membrane-type flexible wiring board (flexible membrane assembly 72) and a reinforcing member (70,98) can be collectively molded and bonded to each other for the expected benefit of ensuring good electrical connection between the probing assembly and device under test as disclosed by Gleason et al (613) (see Co. 1 lines 13-14).

Conclusion


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Emily Y. Chan whose telephone number is 571-272-1956. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wael fahmy can be reached on 571-272-1705. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2829

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

EC
3/1/06


VINH NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER
A.U. 2829
03/02/06